Conference on Cultural Bio-Diversity

450. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has participated in the recent UNESCO conference on Cultural Bio-Diversity;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not forcefully forwarded the views to preserve Cultural Bio-Diversity;

(c) the steps Government would take to raise the issue of Cultural Bio-Diversity at all international fora;

(d) whether any Task Force has been formed by Government to work on this matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, a Convention on Cultural Diversity (as distinct from bio-diversity) was adopted recently by a vote in the General Conference of UNESCO through a process of Inter-Government negotiations.

Protected monuments under ASI

451. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the protected monuments under ASI in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, city-wise and town-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred during the last two years for their preservation and maintenance, monument-wise;

(c) the amounts earmarked for their preservation during the current year, monument-wise; and

(d) the requests and complaints received in respect of the monuments of the above States?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.